



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: April 19, 2002 (02-18)
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Proposed tree removal to eradicate Citrus Longhorned Beetle will be focus at Tukwila open house

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture is holding an open house in Tukwila next week to discuss the next steps in efforts to eradicate the Citrus Longhorned Beetle, including a proposal to remove trees. The open house takes place on Thursday, April 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Showalter Middle School, 4628 S. 144th Street, Tukwila. The public is encouraged to stop by the open house anytime between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. to learn more about eradication efforts.

The Department of Agriculture is proposing to remove and destroy targeted host trees in the area surrounding the site where the Citrus Longhorned Beetle escaped last August. The proposal includes removal of host trees along Interstate 5 within the quarantine area, host trees out to a maximum of 1/8th mile from the introduction site, and any infested trees found in the quarantine area. Host trees could possibly be removed from approximately 50 residential properties. Evergreen trees (conifers) and other non-host trees would not be affected.

The department is also proposing tree injection for remaining host trees out to a maximum of a 1/4-mile radius from the introduction site. The insecticide *imidacloprid* could be injected into tree trunks or tree root zones to help prevent the spread of the beetle. Before implementing the proposed tree removal and tree injection actions, the department will complete the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process.

The purpose of the April 25 open house in Tukwila is to exchange information with the community and to ensure affected residents understand the threat of the beetle, proposals for eradication, and how the proposed actions could affect them. A newsletter was mailed to residents this week and is available on the department's Web site.

National experts will be at the Tukwila open house to meet with residents. Entomologists involved in the New York and Chicago Asian Longhorned Beetle programs will talk with the public about the importance of assuring that the Citrus Longhorned Beetle does not get established in Washington. They also will discuss alternatives for eradicating the pest.

The Citrus Longhorned Beetle is a serious insect pest that attacks and eventually kills healthy hardwood trees. It is closely related to the Asian Longhorned Beetle that has caused thousands of trees to be destroyed in New York City and Chicago.

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Information on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle project including the quarantine, proposed actions, and a list of host trees is available on the Department of Agriculture's Web site at www.wa.gov/agr/CitrusLHBeetle.htm. The public can also call the department's toll-free hotline at 1-800-443-6684.

MEDIA BRIEFING THURSDAY, APRIL 25 AT 10 A.M.

Reporters are invited to a briefing on Thursday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. at Foster Library, 4060 S. 144th, Tukwila. State and federal Department of Agriculture staff will provide an update on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle project including the quarantine, survey, proposed tree removal, and proposed tree injection. Scientists involved in New York and Chicago Asian Longhorned Beetle eradication efforts will be available for interviews. Vic Mastro, a leading invasive insect expert, will be visiting from Massachusetts and will be demonstrating the tree injection method used for slowing the spread of the beetle.

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